



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

to the atlas, and add to his intelligent interest in the "full cartographical illustrations from contemporary sources," without bringing him into that "bondage to the modern map" which Freeman so deplored.

The purist will meet with some surprises. He may think that a few such words as "fundament," "abided" and "vagabondish" deserve, as Mr. Winsor would say, to be "re-Englished."

GEORGE H. HAYNES.

*Worcester Polytechnic Institute.*

---

*The Poor in Great Cities, Their Problems and What is Doing to Solve Them.* BY ROBERT A. WOODS, W. T. ELSING, JACOB A. RIIS, WILLARD PARSONS, EVERETT J. WENDELL, ERNEST FLAGG, WILLIAM JEWETT TUCKER, JOSEPH KIRKLAND, SIR WALTER BESANT, EDMUND R. SPEARMAN, JESSIE WHITE MARIO and OSCAR CRAIG. Pp. xxi, 400. Price, \$3.00. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1895.

Most serious students of social science will misjudge this volume at the first glance because of its outward appearance. That such prejudice is not justified becomes apparent as soon as one begins to read in this interesting collection of essays.

This volume makes no pretense at being a solid, scientific treatise on poverty and pauperism. There is no connection between the several papers except that they all deal with some feature of city poverty, and the order of arrangement is confusing. We are first told about "The Social Awakening in London," by Mr. Woods. Then we pass over to America and view "Life in New York Tenement Houses, as Seen by a City Missionary," Rev. William T. Elsing; see "The Children of the Poor," as described by Mr. Riis; are then told "The Story of the Fresh-Air Fund," by Mr. Willard Parsons and the history of the "Boys' Clubs in New York," by Mr. E. J. Wendell. President William J. Tucker follows and describes "The Work of Andover House in Boston," and Mr. Joseph Kirkland relates what has been done "Among the Poor of Chicago." We are then again transported to England to "A Riverside Parish" of London, which Sir Walter Besant delineates. After Mr. Spearman's account of the "School for Street Arabs" in Paris comes a description by Miss Mario of the life of "The Poor in Naples." Returning to New York the reader is told about "The Agencies for the Prevention of Pauperism," by the late Mr. Oscar Craig and following this comes a second paper on "The New York Tenement House Evil and Its Cure," by Mr. Ernest Flagg. To a greater or less degree each writer deals with similar phases and reiterates observations, arguments and proposals given by

the other authors. Nor are their views always in harmony. One traces the causes of poverty and pauperism to defects of individual character, mental and physical. Another discovers most of them in the social and economic environment of the poor. The writers vary greatly in the matter of style. Some are easy masters of a lucid, flowing, well-ordered narrative; others are not. Some are widely known as authors and students of social problems and others appear here for the first time. Some of the authors see little else but sorrow, misery, vice, crime and grinding toil in the average life of our city poor. Others while fully aware of all these terrible conditions see much that is cheerful, much that indicates improvement and enlightenment, and a gradual bettering of things in the slums. The social horizon of London from every point of view, says Mr. Woods, is bright with encouragement and glowing with the magnificent achievements of the recent great social awakening.

One of the most interesting and instructive papers in this volume for the American reader is that by Rev. William T. Elsing on the tenement houses of New York. Dr. Elsing speaks with authority. Nine years of life and work among the people of the East Side of lower New York have made him familiar with all the details of his subject. He writes with feeling, but he always expresses himself with marked discretion and commendable moderation.

Speaking of the tenement houses, he says: "To many persons, living in a tenement house is synonymous with living in the slums, yet nothing is farther from the truth. It would be an easy matter for me to take a stranger into a dozen or more homes so poor, dirty, and wretched that he would not forget the sight for days, and he would be thoroughly convinced that a home cannot exist in a tenement house; but I could take that same person to an equal number of homes in the same section of the city, and sometimes in the same house, which would turn him into a joyful optimist and forever satisfy him that the state of things is not by any means as bad as it might be." (Pp. 45-46.) It is refreshing and novel to read his sensible remarks defending the traditional monster, the landlord. "The landlords are of necessity compelled to be peremptory and sometimes arbitrary in their demands. If a landlord were even a little too lenient his tenement property would certainly prove a losing investment. The apparently unreasonable harshness of many landlords is often justifiable, and the only means of securing them against loss." All who have any real knowledge whatever of the character of the average poor know how just are these observations.

Mr. Elsing offers several suggestions that he believes could be carried out with substantial and beneficial results by those who are

striving to improve the conditions of life among the poor. He does not offer them as "remedies" but simply as helps. They are : first, increase of room, sunshine and air in tenement houses ; second, increase of small parks ; third, better house construction and sanitation ; fourth, the regeneration of the saloon by removing its objectionable features and making it a reputable social club house ; fifth, erection of bath houses ; sixth, formation of a "universal loan association ;" seventh, provision of trained nurses ; eighth, "greater co-operation among all good men."

FRANK I. HERRIOTT.

*Iowa College.*